

Science in Support of Managing Water Quality

Philip Trowbridge, P.E.
San Francisco Estuary Institute



San Francisco Bay

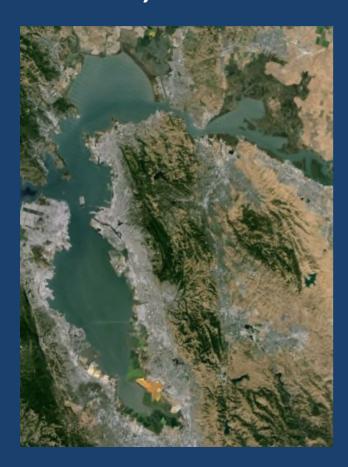


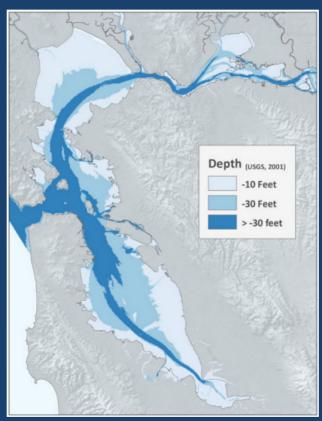
BIG, URBANIZED

Area = $4,100 \text{ km}^2$

SHALLOW, COMPLEX Median Depth = 4 m

LARGE WATERSHED
40% of CA







Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in San Francisco Bay

An innovative partnership to understand the health of San Francisco Bay

Stakeholders Govern-Industry ment **Scientists**

Celebrating our 24th year!

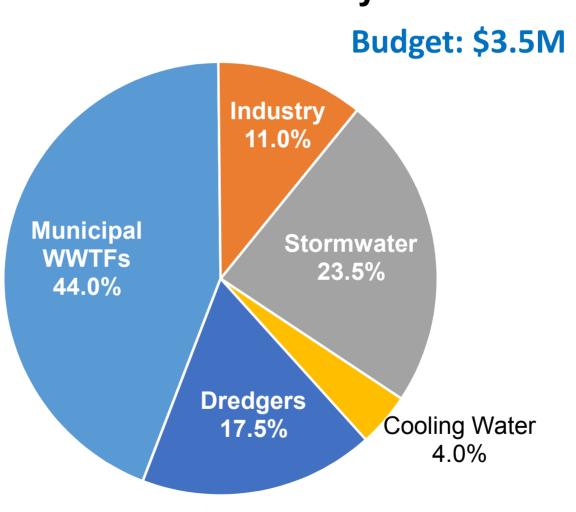
General Goal of the RMP

Collect data and communicate information about water quality in San Francisco Bay in support of management decisions



RMP Participants





Status and Trends Monitoring

Special Studies



Mercury

PCBs / Dioxins

Nutrients

Selenium

Copper

Toxicity

PAHs

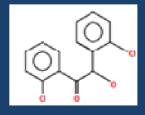
Emerging Contaminants (PPCPs, pesticides, microplastics, etc.)





Nutrients: concentrations & effects





Non-targeted CECs analysis

Achieving Our Goal

RMP Impacts on Management Decisions

National/State
Scale

Product phase outs
Identifying high risk CECs

Regional Scale

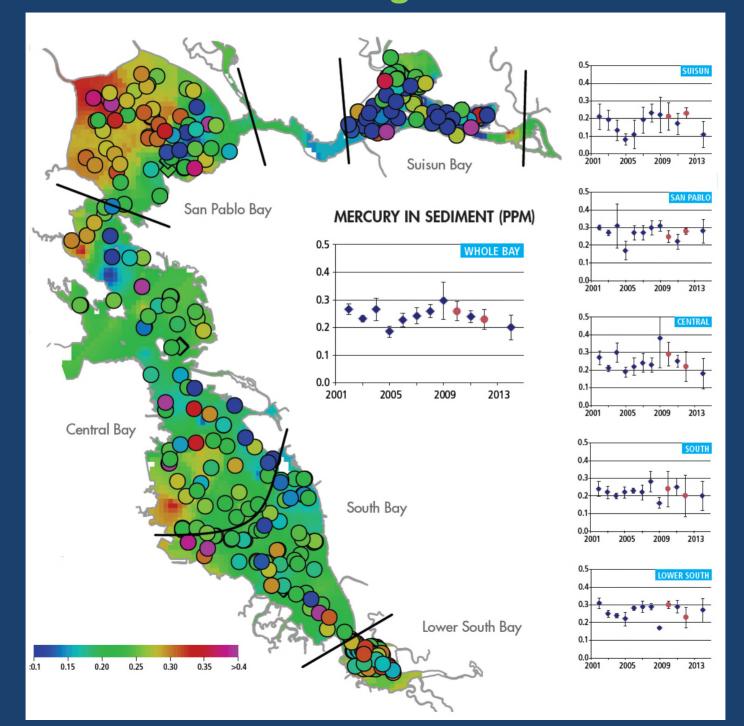
TMDLs for PCBs, Hg, Se Fish Consumption Advisories Nutrient Management Strategy

Local Scale

Ambient sediment and water concentrations for permitting



RMP Data Establish Background for Local Permits

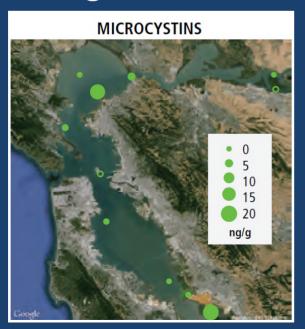


Nutrient Studies Inform a Multi-Billion Dollar Decision

Continuous Monitoring with Moored Sensors



Algal Toxins



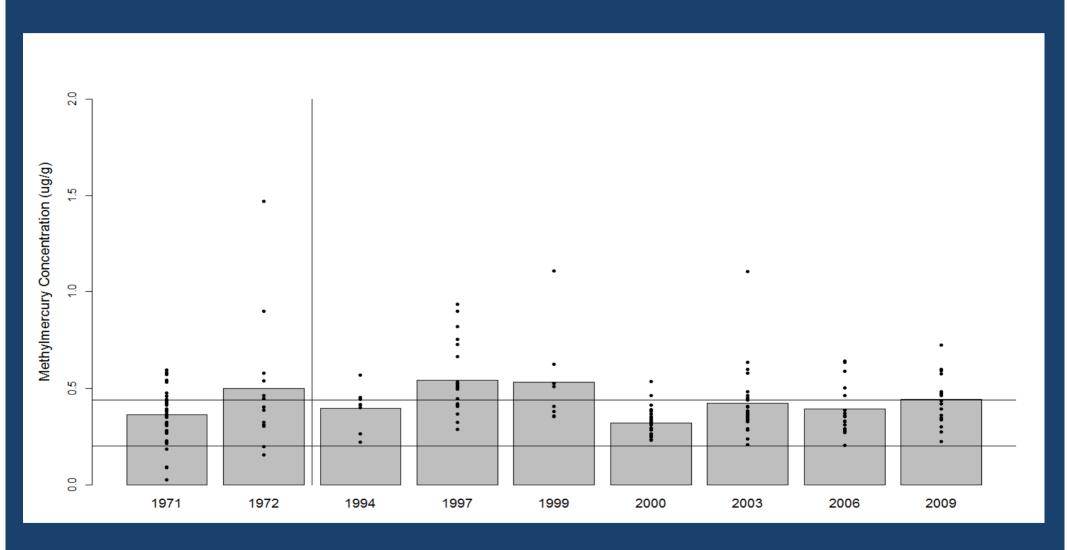
Water Quality Modeling



High-Res Water Quality Mapping



Fish Tissue Monitoring for TMDLs and Advisories Methylmercury in Striped Bass



Innovative Methods To Monitor Selenium in Fish Non-Lethal Sturgeon Muscle Plug Monitoring





PBDEs: A Bay Area Water Quality Monitoring Success Story

PBDEs added to foams, plastics & fabrics as a flame retardant

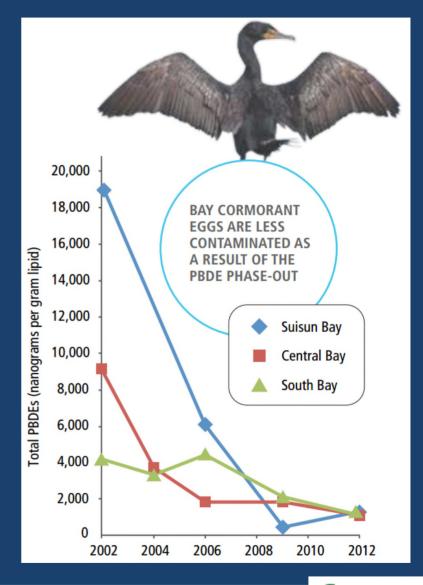


SF Bay became a PBDE hot spot

US phase-out 2004, California ban 2006











Developing a Microplastic Strategy For San Francisco Bay:

Fish

Water

Mussels

(filter-feeders)

Information Needed to Support

Decision-making Bay Monitoring

Connection

with Marine

Debris



Keys to the RMP's Success

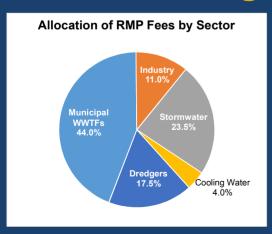
Forum for Collaboration



Clear Objectives
Relevant to Decisions



Stable Funding



Long Range Planning



Adaptability





For More Information

Philip Trowbridge, PE

RMP Manager philt@sfei.org (510) 746-7345



Jay Davis, PhD

RMP Lead Scientist

jay@sfei.org

(510) 746-7368



www.sfei.org/RMP